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Remote Screening for Diabetic Retinopathy via Fluorescein Angiography

The Diabetic Retinopathy project is an evaluation of digital fundus images as a diagnostic method for surveillance of diabetic retinopathy. This study will use digital photographic images of the fundus taken at the outpatient clinics and transmitted via the Internet to an ophthalmologist at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center to assess the reliability of detection of high-risk diabetic retinopathy, which requires immediate treatment or close surveillance.

This study compares the assessment of diabetic retinopathy using digital images of nonmydriatic fundus photographs with similar assessment using clinical, ophthalmoscope examination. This technique would also allow an ophthalmologist to examine the eyes of a patient who resides at a distant site promptly and without the need for travel. Such benefits would be extremely useful for the delivery of optimal and cost-effective medical care to soldiers and their families assigned at locations remote from a military medical center.

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